

**MINUTES  
FOR THE 2010 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011  
BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER  
GRAND HALL  
2202 COMSTOCK STREET, SAN DIEGO, 92111**

**CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 6:10 p.m. 95 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 8:25 p.m. to the next scheduled Pre-Map Public Hearing of the Redistricting Commission on Wednesday, May 11 at the La Jolla Woman's Club.

**ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:**

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal  
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez  
(M) Arthur Nishioka  
(M) Frederick Kosmo  
(M) Theresa Quiroz  
(M) David Potter

**ROLL CALL:**

Chair Anisha Dalal called the roll:

(M) Frederick Kosmo – present  
(M) Theresa Quiroz – present  
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez – present  
(M) Arthur Nishioka – present  
(M) David Potter – present  
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow – not present

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Redistricting Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Comments are limited to no more than three minutes per speaker. Submit requests to speak to the Midori Wong, Redistricting Commission Chief of Staff, before the item is called. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, shall be taken by the Redistricting Commission on any issue brought forth under Non-Agenda Comment.

(Transcript Begins)

**Chair Dalal:** Ms. Wong, do we have any comments at this time?

**Chief of Staff Wong:** No, we do not.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CHAIR**

**Chair Dalal:** So I'd like to welcome everyone. This is a series of pre-map public hearings that we are conducting. This week we are wrapping up these pre-map public hearings. And the purpose of these is two-fold. One, to share with you some information about the process, about the U.S. Census date, and most importantly to hear what you have to say about redistricting and how the boundaries should be drawn in the City of San Diego. We are here to serve you. We have not done any of the work to draw the plan at this point, because it is so important to us that we get out into each and every council district to hear what you, the public, have to say. Over the last several weeks, we are in many of the districts. This week we are in district 6 and we will also be in District 1 on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m at the La Jolla Women's Club. That will be the last of the pre-map public hearings. We had nine hearings, including a weekend session, and it's very important that we come to you to the communities where you live, work, and serve so that we can hear everything you have to say about this process. Our goal is to take all of the input you share with us and try to make sense, a plan that best meets everyone's needs. So we welcome you to speak. At any moment during this meeting you may fill out a slip to speak and you can turn that into Ms. Wong. There's a tray there that you can set your slip in and you will be called in the order in which they are received. And you can get up at any time to do that, no formalities. So, with that we begin our meeting. The first item: Ms. Wong will share a little bit of information about the 2010 Redistricting process and an overview of the U.S. Census data. Ms. Wong?

(Transcript Ends)

**ITEM 2 – 2010 REDISTRICTING AND U.S. CENSUS DATA OVERVIEW BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

Ms. Midori Wong, Chief of Staff, Redistricting Commission, provided an introduction to the 2010 redistricting process and an overview of the recently released Census data. There was one questions from the public.

**ITEM 3 – REDISTRICTING CRITERIA OVERVIEW BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Ms. Sharon Spivak, Deputy City Attorney, provided an overview of legal criteria associated with the redistricting process. There were two question from the public.

**ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING PREPARATION OF A PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN**

**Comment 1: Eric Robles**

Good evening. Sorry about that. Good evening, Commissioners, Ms. Wong. Thank you for coming out again and hosting this meeting. I'm here again because this is very important issue for our communities. Your work here today will really determine what our communities will look like for the next ten years. So everybody's input here is very valuable and I wanted to give my two cents. I live in Talmadge which is part of the Kensington Planning Commission; it's an older established community down by the 8 and 15. It's older and established, yet there are a lot of young families. And we chose Talmadge, because we really liked Kensington, they had a lot of amenities we wanted; there's the college area there; and Mission Valley was just down the street, where we can do all our shopping, everything that we needed. My son's school is really down the street, College Avenue Baptist School down on College Avenue and El Cajon. And next year, he'll probably be a kindergartener in Del Cerro at Green Elementary. So as you can see our neighborhoods here, our options are limited to where we can go and actually that was one of the reasons we moved out there. I heard there is a proposal that wants to join our community to the south and I'm really concerned about that, because as we were just discussing up here, we have more shared interests with folks to the north and the east of us. So it's very important to me when you trying to figure out how you're going to divide the resources, whether its police, fire, whatever it may be, but we are along this corridor, it's a natural corridor along the 8 freeway that is important for us. There's a lot of—everything that we do, we rely on that corridor. So obviously, it would be a huge mistake to separate Talmadge and Kensington, they go hand in hand. So I just wanted to make sure that you listen to our concerns, and keep our communities together – Kensington and Talmadge, and help us stay around the amenities that we need. Thank you.

**Comment 2: Kirk Starr**

Good evening, everybody. My name is Kirk Starr. The area, I'll try to be as brief as possible because there are so many people here tonight. The area that I'm concerned about is the Bay Ho, Bay Park, and the western Clairemont area. It has a— I've lived there, my brothers live there, I have a lot of family that live in that general area. And the thing that I feel most strongly about is the fact that I feel that it needs to be linked with the Mission Bay/Pacific Beach area. Our views that we have from the Bay Park/Bay Ho area, everything that happens at the beach affects us: property values, traffic. Our view is if there is any development going down on at beach it's definitely going to affect us. And I think there is a link with what goes on in Bay Park, besides the name, obviously— Bay Park, Bay Ho, Mission Bay— it should all be one area. I've never really understood why the beach area is one; with us right across the freeway with the same views is not a part of the same area. So that is my general take. Thank you.

**Comment 3: Maureen Keegan**

My name is Maureen Keegan. I'm a Sister of Charity. I am president of <unintelligible> Today, a non-profit corporation of the State of California since 1983. We have a community center and Montessori preschool about two blocks away here in Linda Vista. When discussing Linda Vista you need to take into consideration that there are really two different communities here. The area immediately around the University of San Diego is influenced by its relative affluence. However, as you drive north, you enter a very large, very diverse, immigrant community. For example, many are buildings with multi-family occupancy; the house around it's the same thing. There are absentee landlords who are not always aware of the conditions in which they keep their properties. And we have assisted representing members of the immigrant communities around us in small claims court. We also have tried to make Montessori

education available to low-income people. We do this because the administrators of the school are non-salaried. Many of the parents from Linda Vista, however, require financial assistance from the YMCA, and other agencies. Besides this center which also provides social services for many of the less affluent people in Linda Vista, there is also a Head Start here. In many ways, Linda Vista is similar to City Heights and I know that's farther away. But we strongly support the efforts being made to create City Council Districts that empower immigrants and the working poor. Thank you again for your attention to these needs of the Linda Vista community.

**Comment 4: Editha Adams**

Hi, good evening. <Spoke Japanese> My name is Editha Adams and I live in Rancho Bernardo. I'm here to support the charts of redistricting Commission as it relates to diversity. Section 5.1 of San Diego City Charter, describes this responsibility in detail. It reads, "Each redistricting plan shall provide fair and effective representation for all citizens of the city, including racial, ethnic and language minorities and be in conformance with the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes." With that in mind, I support a framework for a diverse City Council map that follows these main points Historically unrepresented groups in San Diego deserve representation in City Hall and it's possible for all these communities of interest to get these empowerment. I support enhancing Latino empowerment in District 8 and maintaining the unity of all South San Diego with the Historic Barrio neighborhoods South of 94 and west of I-15. I support enhancing the African American empowerment in District 4, increasing the African-American percentage in that district, and I support enhancing LGBT empowerment in District 3 by uniting neighborhoods south of 8 that opposed proposition 8. I support a second Latino empowerment district that unites City Heights with Latino-majority neighborhoods to the south that creates a second district with a Latino-majority population, and as a APALA member I support the creation of an Asian Pacific American empowerment district that unites the large Asian population in Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos and includes the Asian business district in north Kearny Mesa. I do not support the citywide maps being proposed by APAC or the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council, because those maps do not accommodate the fairest and most effective representation of racial, ethnic and language minorities as the City Charter requires. Please support the community by supporting the requirements of the City Charter. <Spoke Japanese> Thank you very much.

**Comment 5: Laurie Coskey**

Good job. Ok. *Shalom Salam*. That's all I can do, Edith; I'm not as good as you are. Hello, my name Laurie Coskey. I'm a rabbi and an activist with vulnerable communities and I live in the community of Kensington. I'm eager to support efforts of community organizations who work together in a collaborative process. This collaboration has lifted the voices of communities that have been underrepresented and even invisible in the districting processes of the past. Together they have proposed maps south of interstate 8 that represent their communities and empower others to be active voices in for new communities of interest.

This effort by the Latino Redistricting Committee, the LGBT Redistricting Task Force, and Mr. Barry Pollard on behalf of the African-American community facilitated a vital and dynamic dialogue between communities that have not always agreed with one another. Please respect that has been and the trust that has been built through the process by adopting the boundaries between the LGBT, African American, and Latino empowerment areas that have been proposed to you by these groups. Secondly, I know that you will be hearing testimony tonight about Mission Valley, keeping it together with neighborhoods that are impacted by the heavy traffic there. As someone who lives in Kensington, works

down the hill in Mission Valley, and takes Zumba classes at the Y, I'm hopeful that the new City Council map will allow one councilmember in the area to focus on the growth issues in Mission Valley, because the densely populated area of residents and businesses must look forward with a cohesive strategic plan. The communities around Qualcomm stadium have a real stake in whether a new Charger's stadium is built there or if there is going to be new housing or open space. Finally, in our close knit neighborhood of Kensington, we are identified by City planning departments as a neighborhood with a deficit when it comes to parks and open space. So we would like to be part of that conversation too. So, thank you for reaching out to the community as listeners and policy makers committed to the future of San Diego.

**Comment 6: Susan Duerksen**

Hello, Commissioners. Thank you very much for all your work on this. My name is Susan Duerksen and I have lived in the neighborhood of Kensington for almost 16 years. Kensington is one of San Diego's oldest neighborhoods. It's mostly residential, it has only a few shops and restaurants so our families are very dependent on neighboring areas, such as Mission Valley and the College area, and surrounding areas for much of our recreation and services. I work in Mission Valley and I also regularly use the YMCA at Hazard Center. My 15-year-old daughter has started going there and that is now her primary source of physical activity. As Laurie just said, we don't have really any parks or recreation areas in Kensington. So, besides the Y, my family has often visited Lake Murray and Mission Trails Park, these are very important outdoor recreation areas to us.

We also very frequently visit Fashion Valley, Mission Valley, the movies and the mall, and the shops and restaurants there. So another aspect of my connection with this whole broader area: A few years ago, I was able to earn a masters degree while working and without disrupting living situation or my home life by attending San Diego State. And I simply walked from my house down to the bus stop in Kensington and took the bus straight to campus, which was fabulous. So, Kensington is really a great community to live in; I have terrific neighbors there, and we really like the small town feel of it, but it really couldn't really handle the type of development that would be necessary for us to have these kinds of services in our own area. So areas such as Mission Valley and the College area are really part of our community as well. And I think we in Kensington would really benefit from having a councilmember with sort of a holistic view of that whole area, and the transit needs and the other needs that we share. Thank you very much.

**Comment 7: Brian Lovell**

I thank you for being here and listening to me. My name is Brian Lovell. I live down the street from here. I was born and raised here in Linda Vista and I want to tell you about the impact of Mission Valley on our community. It's right down the hill; there's Fashion Valley shopping mall and it's a major shopping area and it's always clogged with traffic from 163 and Friars Road, as long as I can remember; it's always been like that ever since it was built. The Padres used to play there and it wasn't that crowded then. I was involved in reviewing the plans of Quarry Falls, the development was going to be right there across a little ways up, right across from the Ralphs, on the left side of Friars Road. It's going to be a million square feet of offices and shops, and 5,000 homes and it's going to take 15 years to build that, and they have three 5-year phases of that project. And it's going to make those onramps more congested, and that's part of the master plan. And another one, Hazard Towers are going to be built. At Hazard Center there is going to be two more towers built there. So that's going to create more traffic. Less than half a mile away from Hazard Center, is Mission Valley mall. Westfield is planning to expand

that 1,000,000 square feet of retail and office space. So there's more traffic. Then of course, we have the elephant in the room here, Qualcomm Stadium. What are we going to do with Qualcomm Stadium? If the Chargers go or stay – of course, we want them to stay—but still it has to be addressed. That's even more traffic when the games happen. And our hope here in Linda Vista, my hope anyway, is that the neighborhoods that are currently impacted by Mission Valley are included in the Mission Valley community of interest and the future of the quality that we live in here is affected by all that traffic down there. So please keep Linda Vista with Mission Valley so we can consider all these populations together. Thank you.

**Comment 8: Carlos Cota**

Hello, my name is Carlos Cota. Excuse my voice; I'm just kicking a little cold my kids brought home from school. And my hat's off to Brian— our kids play little league together. He's missing his kid's game to be here, so thanks, Brian, for testifying. And thank you for this open forum. I live down in Bay Park. I grew up in Clairemont, but I live down in Bay Park with my family. My wife and I bought a home there 15 years ago, and we are raising a family. We have three kids now. We live less than three miles from the ocean, but are not part of the City Council district that includes the beach communities down there because of the current boundary. Our community has more in common with the beach communities that are just across the 5, than other communities in District 6. Our community lifestyles and our property values are tied in proximity to San Diego's beaches and bays. My family and friends, and many of our neighbors are all beach people. We all surf, dive, fish, spend a lot of time down at the beach together. We care about clean beaches and clean water. We have a lot in common with other beach areas, like Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach and Mission Beach. And we all choose to live in these parts of the city because of the laid back atmosphere that Bay Park and these communities all share. When you are drawing the district, please consider making Bay Park part of the beach and bay communities that are down there. Thank you.

**Comment 9: Trang Pham**

Good evening, everyone. <Spoke Vietnamese.> My name is Trang Pham. I am part of the immigrant community. I live in Clairemont but I work with many in the Vietnamese community as a community organizer. I am here to support the redistricting plan that reflects the diversity of our city and respects the immigrant population in San Diego. You can do this by supporting the proposal by the Latino Redistricting Committee, the LGBT Redistricting Task Force, and Mr. Pollard. Their collaboration best reflects the diversity of San Diego, and they support the diversity requirements of the City Charter. One of the most important parts of their proposal is the creation of an immigrant empowerment district that brings together the different neighborhoods of City Heights. As someone who works very closely with the community there I am in favor of this proposal. I am also in favor of an Asian empowerment district that unites the large Asian population in Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos and includes the Asian business district in North Kearny Mesa. Unfortunately, I cannot support the citywide map created by APAC, because it does not create the fairest and most effective representation of racial, ethnic and language minorities as the City Charter requires. Thank you very much for your time. <Spoke Vietnamese.>

**Comment 10: Moses Cueva**

Good evening, as everyone is saying it, *buenas noches*. My name is Moses Cueva and I live in downtown San Diego and I am here to advocate for a new city council map, one that creates the

framework for a diverse city council. Enhancing Latino empowerment in District 8 by maintaining the unity of South San Diego with the Historic Barrio neighborhoods, a second Latino empowerment district uniting City Heights with remaining Latino-majority neighborhoods to the south that creates a second district with majority Latino populations, also to create an Asian American empowerment district that unites the large Asian populations in Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos, enhancing African-American empowerment in District 4 by increasing the African American percentage, and like the other said, I do not support the citywide maps proposed by APAC or the Rancho Peñasquitos town council because those maps do not accommodate. Pretty much, I hope you guys can keep some of these neighborhoods together. Thank you very much for your time.

**Comment 11: Patrick Finaucane, League of Conservation Voters**

Hello, everybody. My name is Patrick Finucane. I serve on the board of the League of Conservation Voters. Thank you for letting me speak tonight. I have a little presentation I brought with me tonight, and they were nice enough to let me put it up there, so bear with me. I'm here tonight to talk about a fact that you might not consider when you're doing redistricting and that is environmental protection. The mission of the League of Conservation Voters is to promote environment-conscious candidates and hold them accountable once elected. What we have found when we elect candidates– they're more diligent and focused on environmental issues when the environmental issue is solely in their district. And that is because communities are empowered to pressure to support open space, waterways and environmental issues.

The two most obvious ones that come to mind are watersheds and open space, so common watersheds and open spaces. Why consider watersheds? Watersheds reflect natural boundaries that connect communities and interests. This is most plainly reflected in common scenic views. So communities that are in a common watershed also have common scenic views. Often times, if you think about a watershed as a bowl, the communities around the bowl all see the same thing, and they also have common interests with communities at the bottom of the bowl. A great example of this is, I think another person pointed this out earlier, that for instance Bay Ho has a lot in common with Pacific Beach because they both overlook Mission Bay, and if you can imagine, Point Loma and Mission Hills, they over look the San Diego bay. Here are some examples of the watersheds that make up the City of San Diego. I don't know if you can see sitting down, but these are much bigger than the actual city, so you can see the top one – Los Penasquitos covers Mission Beach, the coast up to Del Mar, Clairemont– basically the western portions of Clairemont, and goes all the way up to Poway. The center one is the San Diego River, which is pretty self-explanatory. It's the river area in Mission Valley and then, Pueblo is the one on the bottom which covers the Point Loma peninsula, Downtown, and it actually goes all the way out east to La Mesa. So these are obviously larger than individual districts, but what we find is that they do create natural boundaries that connect communities.

So next, open space. This probably obvious to everybody but I want to make sure I point this out. San Diego has a number of great open spaces and what we find, trying to get City Council members to focus on these issues, is that if you connect those open spaces with the communities around them, you empower those communities around them to force their City representatives to think about them, to focus on them, so it's almost like you add a kind of marquee thing. So if you have a Mission Bay district, the greatest thing for that council person would be to take care of that bay. And they also affect communities around them. So if you think about Balboa Park, you think about North Park, you think about South Park; they are all very affected and the people around them care a lot about those natural resources. And by empowering those local communities to care about those open spaces, what you do is

protect those open spaces for the whole city. And often that goes through local planning groups. What we see is that the pressure that goes to City Council people to protect the environment mostly comes from local communities, so if you keep those together and around open space you empower those communities to pressure their City representatives. Here are some examples of open space. There were numerous examples of this; I only included a few so I don't bore everyone to death.

And then finally, I just took the map and drew some of those watersheds and tried to clump them around those big open space type areas. Now, this obviously is not a real map, I didn't use census tracks or anything. What I did is just try to capture obvious open space/watershed connections. So you can see that we have a Mission Bay area, and all the communities that look down on Mission Bay, because any development will affect their views and their property values etc. Another example, of course, Mission Valley, right? That's all part of the same watershed. So, another one is the Pueblo, Downtown, Mission Hills, Point Loma peninsula. You don't think about it but Point Loma mostly looks at San Diego bay. So they share a lot in common with any development along the waterfront in San Diego bay, which is naturally inherent if you follow watersheds, because that's just how they develop. Anyway, I just wanted to present that in case no one had thought about those natural boundaries, and I just wanted to get them on the record. So, thank you for your time and good luck with the redistricting.

**Comment 12: Charles Latimer**

Good evening, I'm Chuck Latimer. I've lived in Allied Gardens for a long time. What I'd like to talk about is the development in Grantville. Now, we've talked about the development that is taking place in Mission Valley, 8,000 homes there. Basically, a bigger number will be in the Grantville area with the redistributing and what's going on. And you also bring in the Qualcomm Stadium there. And the point of what I'm trying to say is, for the next ten years that's really going to be developed. And I know there is a slight deviation in what you can do, and I don't know how you are going to plan for the development that is already in projects, such as the one north of Friar's Road and the one going on in Grantville. Now, this is going to greatly impact where I live with the population growth there. Therefore, I'd like you to take into consideration of the districts that are going on. And I don't always agree with the Navajo district part, which I'm part of—Allied Gardens is—because we're sitting right on top of this development there, whereas a lot of the people in the Navajo area are not. And those are the main things I wanted to talk about and I hope you take these into consideration.

**Comment 13: Nicanora Montenegro**

Good evening, I'm Nicanora Montenegro and I'm here to strongly support a redistricting plan that reflects the San Diego diversity and shows respect to the underserved cultural communities of color in the city. The City's Charter says that it's redistricting plan "shall provide fair and effective representation for all citizens of the city including racial, ethnic and language minorities and be in conformance with the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes." To do this, please make sure that a map includes the following. Number one, historically underrepresented groups in San Diego deserve representation in City Hall and it is possible for all these communities of interest to get this empowerment. I support the enhancement of the Latino empowerment in District 8 by maintaining the unity of all of the south of San Diego with the Historic Barrio neighborhoods south of Hwy 94 and west of Interstate 15. I also believe that there must be an improvement of the African American district empowerment in District 4 by increasing the African American percentage in that district. I also believe that there should be strengthening of the LGBT empowerment in District 3 by uniting neighborhoods south of Interstate 8 which opposed Proposition 8, and I strongly support a second Latino empowerment



district that unites City Heights with remaining Latino-majority neighborhoods to the south that creates a second district with a majority Latino populations, and as an APALA member, which is the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, I strongly support the creation of an Asian American empowerment district that unites the large Asian populations in Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos, and includes the Asian business district in north Kearny Mesa. The citywide maps being proposed by APAC or the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council do not accommodate the fairest and most effective representation of racial, ethnic, and language minorities as the City Charter requires, so that I cannot support. Please support the proposals by the proposal by the Latino Redistricting Committee, the LGBT Redistricting Task Force, and Mr. Pollard because their collaboration best reflects the diversity of San Diego, by supporting the diversity requirements of the San Diego City Charter. The San Diego Redistricting Commission, you understand just how we feel; your love for us you must reveal, and you can do that by making a redistricting plan that respects communities of color like me. Thank you so much.

**Comment 14: Corinne Wilson**

Good evening, my name is Corinne Wilson and I live in Tierrasanta. While I have just moved to Tierrasanta in the last few years, I actually live in my grandmother's house. So every week since about 1980 I spent an evening in Tierrasanta with my grandmother, so I have strong feelings about where I live. One of the things I love most about where I live is our proximity to Mission Trails Park. I walk canyons over to it; I walk down the street from it. I live only a mile and a half from where it enters on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, and it's great. I love it. But the only thing that scares me, I'll admit it, is that I also only live that far from major wildfires. In 2003, my neighborhood, when I wasn't living there, was evacuated. So, every time I see smoke— and let me tell you, you see a lot of smoke that comes off of Miramar the Naval Air Station, I'm always checking out what's going on. And so, while I love the open space I have the fear of the wildfires. I know that I have friends in Scripps Ranch that feel the same way.

We're really, both our of neighborhoods are right there on the front lines for when things come thru the open spaces and decide to take out the City of San Diego. And the other thing I love about my neighborhood, thanks to all those people talking about Mission Valley— yes, Mission Valley is insanely congested and so I live just north of Mission Valley and of Qualcomm, whenever there is something going on, or I don't feel like getting into all that congestion I can just hop north and go to Scripps Ranch. I have doctors up there and I actually go shopping up north when it's crazy in Mission Valley. So, the way I feel about Tierrasanta is we really are a little bit different than the communities that are south of the 8 or west of the 15. I feel a lot more strongly about neighborhoods who share my same love of open space and same concerns about fire protection out there, but also I've heard that the military has plans for development on... for housing and things like that. So it would be nice to share a community that cares about the wildfire risk, the environmental protection of the open areas, but also stays in touch with what's going on with what the military is doing. So I kind of see Tierrasanta and Scripps Ranch as kind of going together. So, thank you for your time. I know you guys work really hard at over 20 community meetings and I really appreciate your patience with going through all these forums. So, thank you.

**Comment 15: David Lagstein**

Hi, my name is Dave Lagstein and I live in Normal Heights, and I'm here with my daughter Eva. And, you know, part of the reason that she's here is that she's a reminder. A lot of people say this is a decision that affects the next ten years, but I really look at it differently. This affects our city and who represents communities certainly past the point where she is able to vote. And I know that is a responsibility that

you all take seriously and she's a reminder. Plus, I didn't have a babysitter, but still. I also want to mention, I'm the local director for the San Diego office of ACCE, which is the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment. We are a community organization that represents low- and moderate-income families and a lot of the work we do is campaign work around improving healthier and safer communities. A key part of our program as well is the work we do around elections. We do civic-engagement programs, generally talking to about 10,000 voters of unrepresented– or infrequent voters, people who only vote in major elections. We talk to a lot of folks and we do a lot of work of calling people, knocking on their doors, but we're trying to overcome obstacles to people voting. And one of the biggest obstacles we hear when we're knocking on doors and talking on the phone is, "This person doesn't represent me, so why should I vote?" And I think that really makes an impact.

When you all weigh your decisions, what can you do to maximize– we are never going to get everyone to vote, but to give as many people as possible the opportunity to say, "Yes, this person does represent me; this person shares my experience, this person shares my values." So, that's what I hope that you all will be weighing very heavily. To be more specific, certainly what our organization looks like– we echo the comments of a lot of different folks, which I'll go through briefly. We support Latino empowerment in District 8, enhancing African-American empowerment in District 4, enhancing LGBT empowerment in District 3, which is my district, a second Latino empowerment district which unites City Heights, and the creation of an Asian American empowerment district. This is the formula that a lot of groups have put together and collaborated on that will answer that question: what will give you all, as a Commission, the opportunity to maximize the question of people saying, "Does this person represent me?" This is formula that will do it. It's the right thing to do. It's required by the City Charter, and we hope that's what you'll support. So, thank you very much.

**Comment 16: Diana Rasmussen**

Hi, my name is Diane Rasmussen. I live and work in Mira Mesa. We have a tight knit community there, a lot of families that live and also work there. But we also have a lot of diversity in our community. One of the best things I like about Mira Mesa, is you never have to leave it if you don't want to. It has everything there and you don't have to deal with Mission Valley or any of the traveling that you have to do from other parts of the city. I have friends from work, a lot of friends, who live in Rancho Peñasquitos and they're the same. We share a lot of the places we go, we use the same highways to go to work, the same roads. We meet in Mira Mesa all the time. And we go to the same stores and entertainment facilities. So Mira Mesa and Peñasquitos, they're kind of their own little town. And I'm just asking that you keep Mira Mesa together with our neighbors to the north, Rancho Peñasquitos. Thank you.

**Comment 17: Jennifer Gray**

Good evening, my name is Jennifer Gray. I live in eastern Clairemont Mesa. Please forgive me, I'm getting over laryngitis. Traffic is a major issue in the eastern Clairemont Mesa neighborhood. The Home Depot, the Target the other big stores in the Geneses Plaza and the Balboa Mesa shopping centers create huge amounts of traffic, which distract from our quality of life. When you combine with that, all the traffic from Mesa College, Sharp and Children's hospitals, the fact that so many of the people of Clairemont have to travel out of Clairemont to work, you get the massive traffic problems that we have there. I would like to see a council district that is committed to improving public transit to and from our community and provide other solutions to the traffic along the interstate 805 and interstate 163, freeways that we live on and travel and use on a daily basis. Thank you very much for you time.

**Comment 18: Bridgette Browning**

Good evening, my name is Bridgette Browning and I've lived in Golden Hill for 20 years. If you're not familiar with it, it's close to the Balboa Golf Course. It's an incredibly diverse neighborhood and we have a vibrant Latino community there. Some of my neighbors like to refer to District 8 as *El Pueblo Olvidado* [The Forgotten Town]. If you go there you see firsthand what happens when you live with poor people. You don't get your potholes fixed; there are no street lights; the grass doesn't get watered in the park. I recently went to a park in Point Loma and I was shocked at the difference between their park and our park. I think a lot of that has to do with the fact that the Latino community is severely underrepresented at the City Council. If they are a third of the population, they deserve to have more than one seat. And I totally support the Latino Redistricting Committee's proposal to create a second Latino seat. I think it's the right thing to do for a growing and vibrant community that is soon going to be over 40% of our community, I believe. I also believe that they've been brushed aside constantly and no one is listening to their issues and their needs. And we need to have sufficient representation so that people are actually listening to what's going on in the Latino community. I think it's wrong to let them be marginalized and I think it's wrong to have District 8 be the *Pueblo Olvidado*. I hope you support creating this second Latino seat. Thank you.

**Comment 19: Ryan Trabuco, Clairemont Town Council**

Thank you. I'm Ryan Trabuco, Vice President for the Clairemont Town Council and I'm here to present a letter to the Redistricting Commission that we voted on at our May general meeting. We unanimously request that our community of Clairemont, which includes the subdivided communities of Bay Park, Bay Ho, Clairemont Mesa, and North Clairemont, remain contiguous, as a whole, throughout the redistricting process. Home to more than 80,000 residents, the whole Clairemont community stands as the second-largest within the City of San Diego.

In our desire to remain contiguous, we must acknowledge our Clairemont community's political diversity, and we feel that merely strengthens our role as a bellwether for the City of San Diego. We respectfully ask that Clairemont not be divided up, and not grouped with communities we feel are of non-interest and do not share commonalities with Clairemont, such as Pacific Beach, Tierrasanta, La Jolla, etc. To be grouped or divided up as such, we feel would be detrimental, diminish, and disenfranchise our interests and our voice in City Hall.

Based on the 2010 census data, our currently drawn 6<sup>th</sup> City Council District needs to lose only 12,000 residents to reach the Redistricting Commissions goal of 144,624. We feel the natural boundaries that are currently drawn within the 52, 15, 8, and 5 freeways, which include the communities of Linda Vista, Serra Mesa, and Kearny Mesa, would best constitute the shape of this district and we ask that it remain as such. The Clairemont Town Council respectfully submits this request to you, the 2010 Redistricting Commission for your records. Signed, Brandy Christian, President, and Ryan Trabuco, Vice President for the Town Council.

**Comment 20: Fred Lonidier**

Yes, my name is Fred Lonidier. I'm a professor at the University of California and I live in the University City area, but I've lived in those areas from southern Del Mar, since I really arrived in San Diego and was a graduate student at UCSD in the early 1970s. And I think that constitutes a District 1,

as it is, constitutes everything that has been enumerated as a criteria for a council. And so I would advocate pretty much staying with the District 1 boundaries as they stand. Unfortunately, it's not as diverse a community as, personally, I'd like to be, and unfortunately, in spite of the fact it's one of the wealthiest communities, our potholes are as bad as everybody else's. And I noticed my Subaru gets taxed every time it goes over one, that's its tires and the shock absorbers. Anyway, just to make a case for that, maintaining that. There is a tremendous community of interest around UCSD. A tremendous number of the population there either works for it or works around it. The graduate students, most of them live there, as well as the undergraduates; a good deal of the faculty lives there, as well as administrators and staff. And it really is a solid community and it needs representation that very much understands it. It's one of the largest employers in the county, and maybe besides the military, the largest. It is spread out a bit, but heavily concentrated in District 1. Thank you so much. \

**Comment 21: Richard Lawrence**

Good evening, my name is Richard Lawrence and I'm a community organizer. I live in Golden Hills. I am here to support the charge of the Redistricting Commission as it relates to diversity. With that in mind, I support the framework for a council map that follows these main points:

I support enhancement of the Latino empowerment in District 8 by maintaining the unity of all of the south of San Diego with the Historic Barrio neighborhoods south of Hwy 94 and west of Interstate 15. I support enhancing African American empowerment in District 4 by increasing the African American percentage in that district. I support enhancing LGBT empowerment in District 3 by uniting neighborhoods south of I-8 which opposed Proposition 8. I support a second Latino empowerment district that unites City Heights with remaining Latino-majority neighborhoods to the south that creates a second district with a majority Latino population, and I support the creation of an Asian American empowerment district that unites the large Asian populations in Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos, and includes the Asian business district in north Kearny Mesa. I do not support the citywide maps being proposed by APAC or the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council because those maps do not accommodate the fairest and most effective representation of racial, ethnic, and language minorities as the City Charter requires. Please support the community by supporting the diversity requirements of the City Charter.

**Comment 22: Ahmed Farah**

Hello, my name is Ahmed Farah. I would like to thank Chief of Staff and the Commissioners for allowing me the time to speak. I live in City Heights and I do a lot of East African immigrant community work; I'm an organizer. I'm in favor of the effort to unite the communities of City Heights where immigrants, like myself, live. We are a very significant part of the community in City Heights. Some people don't realize it but we feel very connected to the immigrants from the Latino countries. They face the same challenges of overcoming language and cultural custom differences as we do. I would like thank you for giving me the time to speak, again, and I hope that you guys support a new council district that empowers San Diego's immigrant communities. Thank you.

**Comment 23: John Stende**

Yeah, good evening. Thank you for all these open sessions that you're having as a Commission and welcome to everyone. I've been a resident of El Cerrito for 37 years. I'm married and have three kids that grew up in that neighborhood and over the years I've really noticed an increased diversity in the neighborhood, so I'd like to support the Latino Redistricting Committee's efforts to create a second City

Council District with a majority Latino population that would help empower the very diverse, largely immigrant communities in City Heights. I know that particularly west of 54th– I live off of 58<sup>th</sup> and El Cajon Boulevard, south of there one block. But anyway, I know that west of 54<sup>th</sup> there's a lot of immigrants there and they representation in the City Council, so I'd like to see them included in also with the Latino population. And the second thing I want, where I live in El Cerrito, we are a neighboring community to the San Diego City College and we're particularly concerned there with the attempt to establish mini-dorms north, especially, of El Cajon Blvd. I know there are restrictions against that, but that's a real concern that we have in the neighborhood, that you get a single residence and all of a sudden they compartmentalize all their room and all then they have several college students living there with 4, 5, 6 cars and then the parking's not available for that many cars in the neighborhoods. And secondly, I don't think that the plans that San Diego State has come up with to accommodate the increase in the students that they want, they don't really address the impact that will have on the neighborhood in terms of the services that are needed and so forth. So, we really need someone who can speak to those issues, from El Cerrito. So anyway, thank you for your deliberation and listening to our concerns. John Stende. Thank you.

**Comment 24: Graham Forbes**

Good evening, Commissioners, and again, thank you for volunteering your time for this important effort. My name is Graham Forbes and I've lived and been surfing in the Pacific Beach neighborhood for over ten years and I grew up along California's coast. Like many others who live in the beach area, I care about protection our coastal and marine resources, and keeping Mission Bay Park clean so that we can enjoy these for generations to come. All of San Diego uses the beaches and the bay but as residents of the beach communities, we live day in and day out with the traffic impacts and the impacts of this being a destination for our entire region. We deal with the crowds, the debris, and sort of the summer traffic that comes every year, inevitably. And we choose to live there because we enjoy having the bay and the coast near our homes, or rentals in my case, which I think is an important distinction between Point Loma and Downtown.

But we need a representative on City Council who puts our issues first. For the past two decades, our City Council representatives have come from Point Loma. We have had Byron Wear, Michael Zuket, and Kevin Falconer, and we feel this has been a disservice to us in the beach communities because too often the interests of Point Loma and Downtown overshadow the needs of the beach communities. We feel that Point Loma and Downtown issues have distracted from the issues important to our quality of life: beach and park cleanliness, alcohol licensing, parking, water quality, storm water runoff, college student housing, the Sea World fireworks and lifeguard staffing. So I am here to urge you to keep Pacific Beach in the same district as communities such as Mission Beach, Mission Bay, and Ocean Beach, and separate us from Point Loma and Downtown so we can get the attention we feel we deserve. Thank you.

**Comment 25: Joey Riley**

Hello, my name is Joey Riley and I live in Allied Gardens and I actually live on a canyon rim that I always thought was Grantville, but I look down on Grantville and I can see the Grantville trolley station from my house. I can actually see San Diego State University from my house all the way down to the Presidio. I see the traffic and see and hear the trolley and I hear the mission bells. So, I think of my community as that whole corridor of Mission Valley. Anyway, I haven't ever been to any of these hearings and I didn't really know about redistricting. But recently I was involved in my Grantville

Stakeholder community meeting and I was deeply concerned, so much so that I called Marti Emerald and talked to Marissa and I realized that they were looking to, or some people's agendas, where to do high-density development in Grantville, right there where I could see, I could throw a stone there and it was very concerning to me. So I decided to get more involved. And there are more issues than just redevelopment in my community, there is the traffic congestion, the flooding problems. And I realized that no one is really speaking up for my community and the real issues that we are facing and that why I am here before you tonight. And, I've tried to catch up from the pre-map hearings and what has been said at the Commission meetings, so I realize that you have heard from people in Mission Bay and Beach communities about how they connect with each other, but are not connected to Mission Valley area to the east. And I understand that you've heard from the LGBT community and read a story about them and their district around Hillcrest to the south and to the west and to the east, but not the north with Hotel Circle and Mission Valley. I understand that you've heard about the African-American community and about how their community has expanded north to El Cajon Boulevard but not to the College area. And I've been informed that you've heard from Tierrasanta having a City Council vote 14-1 against connecting to Allied Gardens, my community, and the Del Cerro area.

I'm aware that you've heard from the northern part of the city, how Linda Vista and Serra Mesa want nothing to do with Mission Valley, and the Qualcomm area to the south. The message seems kind of clear to me, that these communities don't really see a connection with Mission Valley, Allied Gardens, Grantville, Del Cerro, San Diego State and so forth. And I'm here to say that's ok, that's fine. Because for me, looking at my community from my backyard and what's impacting us, we should be our own community, our own council because we share some very important issues and need a council member that will understand the big picture and how these pieces fit together. Please turn to page two in the handout. This is the community that both other communities that have – no community interest. Basically, they pushed us away, a community that is really tied together.

Please turn the page 3 for a closer look at the neighborhood I specifically live in. If you turn to page 4, you will see the community that shares the green trolley line helps us with going to San Diego State for school, watching a college game, attending a professional baseball game at Qualcomm, shopping at the malls, to see a movie, the river walk– I'm a caretaker for a paraplegic and I take his service dog for the river walk and go to Lake Murray. I also take that whole corridor to go to Dog Beach, because there is no open space. The residents have beseeched Matt Afer– and Marti Emerald just recently go elected, before that was Judy McCarthy– to get open space for a dog park, or to help with the flooding, to help with the traffic and we have really been ignored. So I'm hoping that we could get a cohesive, comprehensive understanding if we group commonalities or communities of interest together.

If you turn to page 5 you'll see that we share major traffic interconnections along interstate 8. That's with the 5, the 163, the 805 and the 15. And, if you turn to page 6, because of these interconnections we have major traffic problems between 5 and 8, between 8 and 163, between 163 and Friar's Road, between 8 and 805, and between 8 and 15, and between 15 and Friar's Road. And even at College in San Diego State. We need some elected official that works with SANDAG, the State, and the Federal government to address this problem. With three council members nothing has been done to date and I have not heard of any resolutions. One council member will have the mandate for all.

Please turn to page 7. I've lived in Allied Gardens for 25 years and I work there. For decades really, there's been a redevelopment project that is having a major impact on my life and my community, with the trolley and the Grantville area, and this isn't an isolated issue. Down the road at San Diego State, I've tried– they've tried and I expect they will continue to try to develop Adobe Falls and Del Cerro. We

all expect that at Qualcomm there will be redevelopment in the next decade, and this affects my community directly. Add the Quarries, Hazard Center, and finally the Riverwalk Golf Course where condos will eventually be built; one by one, they're impacts. But I think that you can see by looking at all of these on the map you can see how they affect the other and affect the community. We need a council member who looks at the entire map, but not the current two council members who are looking only at their own district. We need a comprehensive view of the interest.

Please turn to page 8. Flooding is another connection problem. Because of the San Diego River and the sloping of Grantville all the way down Mission Valley, we have every raining season roads shutting down, cars floating away, and disasters and people actually being killed. My girlfriend had her car—when she was living with me here in Allied Gardens—had her car taken away in a flood right by the mission. And that has to be stopped. Every single time— and no one has really addressed the issues; we're completely ignored and we really need the flooding and traffic and congestion areas addressed. However, because it is along these two current council districts it's done in piecemeal. One council member— if you place one council member over the entire flood plan, which is that Mission Valley corridor, then they will have the overall picture and the mandate to address the problem.

If you turn to page 9, laying all these things out, you can see Mission Valley and my community are connected by major issues and something that requires a councilmember to see the big picture. Until you place it under one person, nothing will be done to address it all and it will not be done right. We can't have this piecemeal thing continue going on. I'd like to end with this: Speaker after speaker has come up here about why they should be together and why other areas should not be together, but I'm happy to say that because of all their comments, I was able to see the big picture of my own community. We have many things in common, but we have major issues to address— traffic, development, flooding, besides many other things. If we had one councilmember that could see this big picture, one councilmember that could not point to the other councilmember and say it's their fault, then we could hold them accountable and get it done right. Please consider my community and see the big picture when you think about how we design this puzzle. Thank you very much.

**Comment 26: Khamp Thongrivong**

Good evening, my name is Khamp Thongrivong. Welcome to Linda Vista. I grew up here. In fact, I got my first free sandwich here in Bayside Center, and got my very first job at 16 here at Bayside. I'm here to support the fair districting of the City's 9<sup>th</sup> Council District. I ask that you consider the map as proposed by APAC. I know a lot of people here have kind of opposed it, but I do believe that the 9<sup>th</sup> Council District will become a reality, the only question is where should it be and how much will it affect the other council districts. And I truly believe the map proposed by APAC will be the most effective and the least disruptive to all communities of interest. From what I've heard so far from speakers at previous hearings is that, "Not in my backyard; you can have this map anywhere else but not in my backyard." And it's not really fair to the communities of Asian and Pacific Islander who are comprised as the second rising, the second fastest growing community— second to Hispanic— in San Diego and also in California. So, some people have also argued that race should not be the deciding factors, but how do we take race out of that equation and how could we keep communities of interest together without defining them by race or ethnicity that makes up that community. I believe in the interest of fair redistricting, I ask that you don't break up the community that APAC proposed in its map, to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of people according to the common interests they share. And I hope that you will be fair and impartial when drawing the map. Thank you for your service and I look forward to the final map of all the council districts. Thank you.

**Comment 27: Myrdle Cole**

Good evening, my name is Myrdle Cole. Although I live in Council District 7, my heart has always been in Council District 4. Ever since 1977, I have worked, I have attended church, I have attended meetings in Council District 4. I have worked to keep an African American in office to represent Council District 4, because that is where most African Americans live. After the late Deputy Mayor George Stevens termed out, I served as the campaign manager for my brother and my friend, the late Councilmember Charles Louise. And after his untimely passing, I worked to put his longtime friend in office, Council President Tony Young. We need to keep an African American presence in San Diego to show San Diegans that we can represent diverse populations as well, and do it well. However, it's still sad to me that for almost 35 years, we have only had three elected offices represented by African Americans: County Board, School Board, and City Council. Hopefully, by keeping a majority African American district and an African American in office, it will show San Diego that we can represent anyone just like our President Barack Obama. I support the proposal by the Latino Redistricting Committee, the LGBT Redistricting Task Force and Mr. Barry Pollard. Please adopt the map that best represents the LGBT community and the communities of color. Thank you.

**Comment 28: Doug Wescott**

My name is Doug Wescott. I'm a member of the Serra Mesa Planning Group. We are working on our proposal for citywide redistricting but we don't have that quite ready yet. We would like to ask that you keep Serra Mesa and Kearny Mesa together. We have the most gerrymandered border in the city between us. Together we add up to about 31,000 citizens in population. We were together at one time and we may be back together in the future as one community planning area. So we strongly recommend that. Also, on a personal note, I brought my little soapbox with me and I'd like to get up on that. I know that you're all volunteers and we really appreciate you not only coming out to the communities but holding them in the evening hours; it makes a huge difference in participation from the public and we wish that other government bodies would do the same thing. So, we really appreciate your work and we will get a proposal to you in the near future.

**Comment 29: Andy Berg, Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council**

Thank you, my name is Andy Berg and I'm president of the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council. And just a quick aside, Mr. Louise was one of the best representatives we had, ma'am, and I miss him a lot. He was outstanding, thank you. I'm here to talk on behalf of the north city map that we are on version 10 of– we haven't changed that, it's still with you– and specifically the community that we are calling District 5 that includes Rancho Peñasquitos, which is really a community just made up of families with children. And it's for that reason and the fact that it's part of the Poway Unified School District, that people move there in the first place. It's the reason that people in all those north inland communities– Carmel Mtn. Ranch, Black Mountain Ranch, Torrey Highlands, Sabre Springs, Rancho Bernardo– that's why they all move there. It's the Poway Unified School District and the large population of children for our children to play with. Those communities, and I mentioned this before, are completely interchangeable. The high school my daughter goes to, Westview High School, a high school that we support on the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council; – we've given them grants– is in Torrey Highlands. The largest youth soccer field that my kids have played on is in Black Mountain Ranch. Those communities are completely tied together. All three of my children have played in youth sports and been in band, and everything else you can imagine, and all their competitions are against



those communities and communities as far north as Menifee and Temecula, never to the south. Not one of my children has ever done an extracurricular activity in Mira Mesa.

And with all due respect to those who spoke before, and spoke eloquently, spoke in the same exact words, but spoke very eloquently, so there's a good writer there—we will present you with a PowerPoint that includes the demographics of these communities and show you how similar they are, but we will also add numbers from Mira Mesa because I think that's just become important now. We'll show you that there really is no similarity there. Our proposed District 5 has been endorsed by our town council, of course, our planning board and the Rancho Bernardo planning board as well. We did get kind of get a somewhat endorsement from the Carmel Planning Board, they didn't endorse as much because we took a little piece of La Jolla out, because we tried to make the numbers work. The D5 that I'm talking about is separated by natural boundaries— the City to the north, the city to the east, the Peñasquitos preserve to the south that separates us from Mira Mesa. Top to bottom the whole map is 0.75% deviation, but we do split some communities.

I hope you can take our map and not split those communities any more. We have less split than what's currently split, but our biggest concern is just that one district in the corner, which really doesn't affect the other districts. You can adjust our map any way possible. We don't know those communities as well. That becomes painfully obvious to me every meeting I come to— we don't know those communities as well as the people that live in those communities and you should change those maps any way you want. I know my time is up; all I'm asking you to do is keep our family-friendly, our kid-friendly community together and most of all give us a councilmember who has to deal with the Poway Unified School District, for one time a councilmember who will care about the second largest school district in San Diego. Thank you.

**Comment 30: Mateo Camarillo**

*Buenas noches.* Good evening. My name is Mateo Camarillo. I'm the chairman of the Latino Redistricting Committee. I've lived in several districts in the City of San Diego since I immigrated to this country. I lived in San Diego since 1950. I have several businesses. My first one was a block from here at the McDonald's I started in 1976. I want to strongly support the creation of a second Latino district as the 9<sup>th</sup> District which is a win-win map that we proposed, that we presented to you, that enhances and increases the African American representation in terms of voters in District 4; that supports and enhances the representation of the gay and lesbian communities. I do want to raise a point of order in reference to the proceedings thus far. At the beginning of this meeting, your attorney sitting right here, has advised you that these are legal proceedings, that the document you're going to vote on is going to be a legal document, yet all of your proceedings tonight have been in English. There's state law, there are two state law, one is Civic Code Section 1632 that requires that if people are going to enter into a contract they are able to read and understand the contract. This is what you are doing, you're developing a contract. And a lot of people, not only here in Linda Vista, but this is a good example. In Linda Vista, there are more than 80 languages spoken. You had one translator that arrived over an hour after the meeting had started and instructed only to translate from Spanish to English. There was no translation from the English to the Spanish. I think that democracy – and I understand that you have a budget, but democracy doesn't have a price. Everybody should be able to participate. The county was sued and they settled a consent decree very recently to provide valid information and access to the ballot box in four languages because they were not providing information in the language of significant populations here in San Diego. There are over 1 million Latinos in San Diego County; almost one-third of the citizens or the residents of San Diego rather, are Hispanic. I urge you for the balance of your

meetings, to provide information and translations in the language that people can understand. I do want to thank you for the work that you have served and listening to the people. Ten years ago, in this room, the Commission that preceded you heard loud and clear to unify Linda Vista and that was done. I hope you hear the testimony that are you are receiving as you are deliberating and coming to a final decisions. Thank you very much.

**Comment 31: Dina Girmay**

Hello, my name is Dina Girmay and today I'm speaking as an Ethiopian immigrant. I am here to support the Latino Redistricting community's proposal for an immigrant empowerment district in City Heights. City Heights is in many ways the heart of the immigrant community. In this unique and diverse part of San Diego, you can find cultural resources, businesses, shops, restaurants, and places of worships and community centers that could not be found in other cities. The diversity of immigrants of East Africa, South Asian, Mexico, and Latin America creates a vibrant thriving energy and a truly unique cultural experience in City Heights. The community in San Diego's international center deserves a seat at the table. I hope that the Commissioners will respect the role that immigrants play in San Diego by helping to strengthen the voice of our community and adopt the Latino Redistricting community's proposed map. And thank you for your time.

**Comment 32: Doug Beckham**

Hello, I'm Doug Beckham. I was born and raised here in Linda Vista. And I remember very well that ten years ago we were more interested in keeping our community as a whole, so was Clairemont and Kearny Mesa, which was done. And I'm here to tell you, don't try to fix it if it ain't broken. So, leave Linda Vista alone. We're doing just fine and having run for public office in District 6, I talked to hundreds, maybe thousands of people out there, and more of them were concerned with their libraries, their parks and recs, and of course, congestion in Mission Valley. And that's all I'm here to say. I don't want to either oppose or support any issues that I don't completely understand. Within two weeks, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, we'll be discussing this issue at our Linda Vista Community Planning Committee at 5:30 pm at the Linda Vista Rec Center. Thank you.

**Comment 33: Deborah Knight**

Good evening, my name is Debbie Knight and I live in University City. And I brought you a map here because I know many of you are like me, which is where you don't live, you're not always clear on where everything is. This is the University City Community Plan and it says it all. We are the university community around UCSD and so the blue is our University Community Plan, it includes down to the 52. South of Rose Canyon is generally called South University City. North of Rose Canyon, people often don't call it University City, even though the City does. They call it UTC, I live at UTC, or I live at LA Jolla Colony. And our community plan, as you can see, right in the middle has UCSD. So it has a tremendous impact on our community plan and our community. We are tied to it in countless ways. A professor spoke before– he went to UCSD and now lives in south UC. There are countless people who either attend UCSD or are some way connected to it, or if you see North Torrey Pines Rd. there, all of this northern part of this University community map is bio-techs, high-tech, research institutes, sock institute. It's highly academic and commercial. We are also extremely tied to La Jolla; we actually blend together as you can see. The orange-yellow line down the middle is La Jolla Village Drive. We have things all the way over to the 805 that are called La Jolla this, La Jolla that, La Jolla Mesa Apartments. Many people probably couldn't tell you where La Jolla begins and where University City ends. So the

yellow, the orange is University campus– they have an east campus and a west campus with the 5 down the middle. And the east campus has all the graduate housing so that's 1100 apartments and that's people who must be enrolled full time in graduate programs. So, their community of interest is the university. They are fulltime students and have to leave when they are no longer fulltime students. All of University City is full of students. In all the apartments, the houses, the rentals and their community of interest is UCSD, that's why they are there. The yellow is the piece of University City that in the proposed APAC map is just carved out and moved to different district, in Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Please don't just carve up our community and take a big chunk of it out and put it with a community with whom we do not have a common interest. Thank you.

**Comment 34: Valerie Sanfilippo**

Hello, I'm Valerie Sanfilippo. I live on the border of Linda Vista and Clairemont, up there by Mesa College. And I'm a voting activist so I'm taking the big picture. I'm in favor of redistricting creating a majority of Democratic seats on the City council. The City is 60% majority Democratic; the council should reflect that with at least 5 seats out of 9 being Democratic. I want my district to be safe with a stable Democratic representation for my working class values and districts based on income more than anything else. This idea of balance means gerrymandered to me, it means making a capacity for Republican takeover with more finances and candidates, and so, when I look at the map as it is now, it seems the Ranchos should not be part of the City. Sorry. They are at the geographical level of Encinitas; they should be in North County. To me, city is city. I think Chula Vista and National City should be included, but of course, you have to talk to them. I agree with the guy from the Clairemont Council who wanted to keep Linda Vista together with Clairemont Mesa, Serra Mesa, Kearny Mesa. And I agree with all those people in this area who do not want to be associated with Mission Valley. I don't shop there on the weekend, I shop in Clairemont. And my district Linda Vista has apartments and condos. I started to say it should be with communities such as Mission Beach or Ocean Beach, or even skipping over to City Heights, but I see that's not what those people want. Mission Valley is a shopping district, it's a commercial area. It should be with you know, Old Town or something. I see the people of Hillcrest want to go with Downtown and North Park, of course, maybe that's not my business. I disagree with Asians from Mira Mesa getting their own seat, I think that's just too small of a community. Sorry. I support a second district for Latinos. They have a large population, and I support enhancing the African-American district. And I want to bring up that redistricting is very important to me because, I'm sorry to say, have been cheated by the Republican Board of Supervisors, Mayor Donna Frye three times, Representative Bussy twice, I personally say Proposition 8 Anti-gay flipped on TV, I saw my Councilmember Howard Wayne had his vote widened. And I suspect that Richard Barrera and Steve Whitburn had their vote flipped; they lost in my district which is 2/3 Democratic by 2/3. So, I think that by redistricting and making our council majority Democrat we can get some of these Democratic reforms done, which include selecting the Registrar of Voters. Thank you.

**Comment 35: Wayne Riggs**

Good evening, I'm Wayne Riggs. I spoke to you last Saturday about District 3, because that's where I worked for the last 22 years. Today I'm speaking because I've owned a home in Serra Mesa since 1967 and my primary interest is ensuring that Serra Mesa remain with Mission Valley. I say that because when I bought my home, I paid money to have a road built, called Mission Center Road. There is one lane that goes down the hill from Serra Mesa to Mission Valley, there are two lanes that come up, so Mission Valley must be interested in Serra Mesa as Serra Mesa is interested in Mission Valley. So, we do have a lot interest, commonality, and common concerns. So, I hope that you will be able to keep

Serra Mesa somehow involved in the Mission Valley area. Thank you very much, and thank you so much for your service to our community.

**Comment 36: Anne Shillam**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. To our redistricting Commissioners, thank you again for your service and your availability – it's wonderful. I'm Anne Shillam and I reside on Friar's Road in Mission Valley and I am a member of APAC, the Asian and Pacific American Coalition. I've heard some really interesting comments made this evening and I have to address a few of them. While the Hispanic and Latino population is large in San Diego, the Asian and Pacific American population is large; it is 16% of the total population of the city. It's 200,000 plus legal residents. They don't all vote but there are voter education programs going on and we know that works for all communities. It has been more than 40 years since there has been a Chinese American on the City Council, that was Tom Hom, and he was popular restaurateur in San Diego, much loved in the city, but not one Asian American has approached City Council since then. When you talk about the representation of immigrant communities with common interests, you are talking about Asian and Pacific people. It is time that this element of our city is empowered to participate in politics and the more likely that we will see another council representative male or female, doesn't matter, of Asian or Pacific origin will only happen if there is a 9<sup>th</sup> District that significantly represents this element of population. APAC carefully researched, studied the city, and studied the boundaries. What the <unintelligible> is– and we've heard them at every meeting– is not in my back yard, do not change my community, do not change our boundaries. What they don't want is change, and change is inevitable. The majority of voters voted for a 9<sup>th</sup> District seat. The 9<sup>th</sup> District will be formed. <Disrupted by audience member. Chair Dalal restored order.> That is all I have to say this evening, and I'll turn the rest of my time over to Dr. Chan.

**Comment 37: Sandy Spackman**

I am Sandy Spackman from the Lao community and I wasn't going to speak because this is not my thing. I just wanted to sneak out, and sit in the back and listen to everybody. But this is important. A few years ago I didn't even know what district I was in; and one year ago I didn't even know what the word redistricting was. And then, I got involved with APAC and I got so excited that we Asians will have a possibility, an opportunity to have a voice in government, to have an Asian-influenced district, and that excited me. That's what brings me here tonight. Like I said, I don't have anything planned, but I hope you will consider the APAC proposal, the map that Asians will also have an opportunity to have a voice in government. And as far as remember, when we go to a community potluck or luncheon, we've been told make sure everyone gets a first helping before everyone gets a second helping. Well, please let's make sure Asians get a first helping. Thank you.

**Comment 38: Dr. Allen Chan**

Dear Commissioners, my name is Dr. Allen Chan. Actually, I have an office in Kearny Mesa on Convoy Street and I'm also the owner of Jasmine Restaurant. The city council redistricting is supposed to be conducted and the final map drawn the redistricting Commission based on the interest of the concerned residents and you have been working so hard in listening to the needs and interests of the residents of each existing district. And for APAC and all the volunteers, we truly respect all the desires of all the minority communities and the communities, like LGBT, to preserve or expand their community of interest or sphere of influence. However, lately there have been attacks on the Commission and some of you trying to influence and disrupt your noble mission of conducting a fair and unbiased redistricting

process. Attacks have also been made on the efforts of APAC to seize the basic rights of fair representation protected by the U.S. Constitution. Most Asian Americans are hardworking people and many are owners of small businesses. We want better education just like everybody else, and employment opportunities for our children. We want safety for our neighborhoods and we want friendly environment and climate for our businesses to grow and to contribute more to the local economy. And most of all, we also want the freedom and the basic rights of equal representation of all the citizens of this beautiful City of San Diego we call home. There is no free lunch in this world. We clearly understand that in order to achieve that equality we have to get out of our comfort zones and fight for our rights. We are organized; we are ready to educate the Asian Pacific Americans in San Diego to help them become citizens and registered voters, so that they can preserve their way of life and our businesses. But we are always open to dialogue like we have proved to be for the last ten months and we are ready to sit down if you call us and we can iron out any differences for the best of San Diego. Thank you very much.

**Comment 39: James Justus**

Good evening Commissioners and staff. My name is James Justus. I live and work in the community of Sherman Heights. And I'm self-employed; I'm in the automobile repair business. I've been in that business for 40 years. Thanks for your service to the city, I really appreciate that. I served on the Southeastern Community Planning Group for over ten years and I was recently termed out, last year, or no longer on that group but I enjoyed being on that committee. I continue to serve in a lot of groups in my communities and I wanted to make some comments this evening regarding the redistricting. I'm representing myself and my comments are as follows. I'd like to see South Bay removed from District 8 for a couple of reasons. One is that it's not contiguous. One has to drive through two other cities to drive down to South Bay. I heard Ms. Spivak say that if you can't drive from one end of the district to the other in your car, it's not contiguous. So having South Bay down at the border it's really not contiguous for District 8.

And I'd also like you to consider keeping five communities in District 8 that is Sherman Heights, Grant Hill, Stockton, Memorial and Logan Heights. One of the reasons for that is that we've established a Maintenance Assessment District in these five communities, and we taxed ourselves to do services that the City does not want to do or cannot afford to do. We do daily street cleaning, landscaping, graffiti abatement, we've installed trash cans at almost every corner, and we have a nice little banner program. So, I'd like you to consider keeping these five communities together and in District 8. Please keep Barrio Logan in district 8 as an integral part of the neighborhoods. Barrio Logan was split from these five neighborhoods many years ago by the freeway that went through there, so we'd like to keep the communities united. So that gives us six communities in District 8, and I'd also like you to consider putting part of Downtown into District 8 because we have more in common with Downtown. It's currently in District 2. So please consider putting part of downtown into District 8. I'd also ask you not to split up the Sherman Heights Historic District. Many of the homes there are being restored now and we'd like to keep that intact. So please consider keeping those 7 neighborhoods in one nice contiguous community. Thank you very much for your time.

**Comment 40: Carole Pietras**

My name is Carole Pietras, I live in District 1 in University City and I'd like to say thank you to the Commissioners for coming out to the community and also for making these meetings available online. It's been wonderful to have been able to view the Commission meetings downtown and also these

individual ones as well. I'd just like to echo what other members of University City who spoke tonight said. It's so important to keep University City together. I realize that district 1 probably has the largest amount of people, or number to give up. The last I heard it was about 55,000 approximately. But it would make no sense to divide University City. I was a member of the Precise Plan for University City many years ago before the UTC area was ever built. And we are one community and we are so interdependent and so united, as Debbie said and the Professor said before, by UCSD, the hospitals, the bio-techs. We have so many people who live in the community and work nearby. They make live in south UC and work in north UC, the Torrey Pines area, etc. But you have the students, the faculty, the support staff at the hospitals and at the university. It's just so interrelated. To separate that would really be a shame and I think would be really detrimental to the community.

The Community Plan is something that's been implemented– we've probably had more development in the UTC area and in the University Community area and to try to separate that now would be almost ridiculous. It would be heartbreaking and it would be really disruptive to whoever would be the councilmember for just that portion. It would make much more sense to have Peñasquitos join the inland community than take part of University City out of that. Also, we've had separate– University City is divided in different ways in our Assembly District and in our Congressional District. I'm hoping that will change also. In one way, we're divided along Genesee, in other way we're divided along La Jolla Village. It makes absolutely no sense. In our Assembly District, the Assembly district I'm in – it goes all the way to Borrego Springs. I mean talk about gerrymandering, I think that's classic. So I really feel that it's important; and I understand what so many people are saying here. And so many of us are saying let's try to keep these communities together and bring in common interests, things that unite us. So thank you again, very much.

**Comment 41: Lee Sandvick**

Thank you. Ok. Now, I would like to talk about the task that faces our Redistricting Commission. But first I'd like to address comments I've heard at this and previous meetings. That's why I'm confused. Everyone seems to have their own agenda, their own special interest that they are pushing. There are many–Chicano, Hispanic, Black, Spanish, Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered. But they all seem to be pushing their agenda. And that is concerning that if their representing their special interests and putting their interests above everyone else. Case in point, my representative Christine Kehoe– I get an email once a month and she seems to always focus on the Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered group– one or the other, and I had to call and say are there any other groups in this area that are noteworthy that you can put in your email. And they had no comment. What I'd like to hear is someone who is furthering the American agenda, no matter what race, creed, or sexual preference; that they are going to be representing everyone not just their special group. Now for their bigger picture, notwithstanding any of the comments made at this meeting or at any of the previous meetings, this redistricting Commission is charged with task and they are mandated to draw up the districts that will yield the most liberal, progressive representation of San Diego. And why? Because they are on a time table. San Diego signed a Charter agreement with ICLEI and their time table is to produce legislation that will speed our progress toward 2015 which is a new world order. President Bush signed this binding, non-treaty contract in 1992 and I just found this week that instead of 2025, the goal for the one world government is now being kicked up to 2015. And that's what's concerning me. And that's the reason– that's the job the Commission is facing today. And, I don't know if anyone is aware of that, this ICLEI one of the drawbacks is our loss of private property rights, and to mandate everything we eat, what we buy and the transportation of that we use. A quick question –show of hands– who is on board with this one world agenda? Anyone? Well is no one talking about it, this is concerning, this is fact. ICLEI has 132 member cities in California, 600 nationwide and

their goal is 2015 and I'm surprised that nobody knows about it. We should be talking to our City Council, in fact, they are mandated, the Commission is mandated to draw up the councils that will yield the most progressive liberal candidates, notwithstanding any of the comments made. But I'd really like everyone to research this, pay attention and concentrate. We need to draw districts that will yield American, that will push the American agenda, not just special interest agendas. Thank you.

(Transcript Ends)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dalal adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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Julie Corrales, Executive Secretary  
2010 Redistricting Commission

## **Written Comments Received at the May 9, 2011 Redistricting Commission Public Hearing**

### **Comment 1: Janet Kaye**

It appears to me that Linda Visa area could be within a district that includes West Mission Valley. We border this area, are included in their frequent newspaper and feel “accepted.” The Morena area, though within the LV planning area, has excluded themselves. Thank you.